

## **MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Date of Meeting:** May 18, 2021

**Kind of Meeting:** Regular

**Board Members Present:** Wendy Moore, Mary Dugan, Emily Boss, Russell Tilley, Michael Walling

**Others Present:** Matthew Sheldon, Superintendent; Katharine Smith, Principal; Staff Members Beth Collins, Alison Dening; Dr. Shannon Babbie, Dr. Caty Huber, Albert Babbie, Paul Babbie

The meeting was called to order by President, Wendy Moore at 7:00 p.m.

The minutes of the regular meeting of April 15, 2021 was approved as presented on the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 5-0.

The minutes of the special meeting of April 19, 2021 was approved as presented on the motion of Mary Dugan, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0.

**Correspondence:** None

**Public Comment:** None

Beth Collins talked to the Board about her art program. This year because of COVID, Mrs. Collins takes art on a cart to all the elementary rooms. A trail is being developed in New Lisbon. On the trail art will be displayed. The art classes were given boards to create paintings or other projects that can be put on the boards and they will be displayed on the trail.

Alison Dening talked to the Board about her math curriculum. Mrs. Dening said she is teaching more than is required for the New York Standards but cut back on some of the things not required. She does not feel the students are very behind from where they should be in a normal year. She is doing sample tests so the students will be prepared when it is time to take the Regents.

### **Superintendent's Reports:**

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the stimulus funds that we are scheduled to receive. Part of it can pay the school back for the masks, cleaning supplies, etc., required because of COVID. Some of the funds must go to summer programs, before, after school programs, etc. Mr. Sheldon said a survey will be sent to the teachers, students, and parents getting their suggestions on where some of the money should be spent.

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the false unemployment claims that are being filed. Over the last few months the school has received fraudulent unemployment claims for employees that have retired or are still working here at the school. It is not just happening in Morris it is happening all over the country. We have to send a form to the Department of Labor for each fraudulent claim.

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the Outlay Project for next year. They met with the architects. The architects will not be able to start until the end of June or beginning of July with the work being done next spring. Possible projects are sidewalk repair, putting an exit door in the boiler room, fixing an open space above the science rooms, etc. We had hoped to do the large parking lot, but the cost may not allow it. In order to get state aid, the lot has to be milled down to the dirt.

Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about the bus driver shortage. We had one resign, a regular-run and a full-time bus driver are retiring. Our full-time bus driver is willing to come back as a regular-run bus driver. Mr. Sheldon said that a starting full-time bus driver's salary may need to be adjusted and the substitute rate for bus drivers needs to be looked at.



Matthew Sheldon talked to the Board about a Memorandum of Understanding for Server Maintenance. Jeff Landry used to service and maintain our servers. After he left BOCES he worked independently at \$70 per hour. He would work after school hours or on weekends. Our BOCES tech has been taking care of the servers after hours and was paid overtime. He is retiring. Greg Thom feels comfortable taking on the duties. His pay will be \$250 a month for a total of \$3,000 per year.

### **Principal's Reports:**

Katharine Smith gave the Board an update on hiring. After several weeks we were able to hire an aide. She is on the agenda for approval tonight. We are looking for four elementary teachers for the 2021-2022 school year.

Katharine Smith talked to the Board about the 3-8 assessments and final exams. The math assessment has been administered. There were eight refusals. Fourth and eighth grade written science exam will be given June 8<sup>th</sup>. The performance part of the assessment is not being given. Kelly Catella along with a committee of teachers have asked that we waive the final exams same as we did the mid-term exams. Students are exhibiting a lot of stress. The teachers suggested end of the year projects, presentations, or alternate assessments to end the year for the students. If finals were given they would be 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the grade, which is a higher impact than in past years.

Katharine Smith talked to the Board about the Senior Trip and the PromAque. Senior Switch Day was last Thursday. The Senior Trip is a one-day trip to Six Flags New England on June 4<sup>th</sup>. 20 students are on the list to attend. Monday, June 21 from 3-7 under the tent the senior class will hold a PromAque. They will have a barbeque instead of the prom. Instead of the Senior Luncheon the Board is donating the tent for the students use on June 21.

Katharine Smith talked to the Board about Kindergarten Screening and the Pre-K enrollment for 2021-2022. Kindergarten Screening will be the mornings of May 25, June 3 and June 9. There is a projected enrollment of ten to eleven students for Pre-K in 2021-2022.

Katharine Smith talked to the Board about the emergency drills. We have one fire drill and lockdown completed. There is an early go home drill on May 27, students leave at 2:30.

Katharine Smith told the Board that the Awards Night would be June 23 under the tent at 7:00 p.m. It will be the awards for athletics, music, and elementary. The awards will be read and the student will receive one envelope with all their awards in it. The Graduation will be June 25 under the tent at 7:00 p.m. There will be two stages set up with eleven students on each side. As with the Awards Night. The awards will be read and the students will receive one envelope with all their awards in it.

**Be It Resolved** upon recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approve the following:

**The following business items 1 through 7 and 10 were approved as presented on the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0: (Items 8, 9, and 11 were voted on after executive session.)**

1. Approval of the Claims Auditor's Reports and Warrants for #68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, and 76, as presented.
2. Approval of the Treasurer's Report and Bank Reconciliation for the month of April 2021, as presented.
3. Approval of the Central Treasurer's Report for the month of April 2021, as presented.
4. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the Memorandum of Understanding between the Morris Central School District and the Morris Teachers Association for compensating Greg Thom for the added responsibilities of server backup and maintenance responsibilities. These duties have to be done after school hours

because of the service disruptions that may be caused. Mr. Thom will be paid \$250 a month for a total of \$3,000 per year, effective July 1, 2021.

5. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the Class of 1996 Scholarship. It is an annual scholarship to be given to a graduating senior stating in 2021.

The scholarship will provide a substantial award to a graduating senior who makes a difference in the lives of classmates, fellow students, or the community through acts of kindness, compassion, and empathy. The Class of 1996 Scholarship recognizes and rewards a student(s) who through their daily actions, seeks to improve the lives of others. Examples of acts may include befriending/defending a bullied student, deliberate actions to include members of the MCS community that may be perceived as different, involvement in service projects, or commitment of time and energy to an important cause or charity.

The class of 1996 Scholarship was established by members of the graduating class of 1996 in honor of their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The scholarship is awarded in honor and memory of classmates Kristian Owens and Jeremy Eldred. This scholarship was created to recognize a graduation senior who is a helper, that supports other students in times of need, and that makes the world brighter for classmates or members of the MCS community.

6. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the following elections officials for the 2021-2022 Budget Vote held on May 18, 2021:

Joan Miller, Kathy Kodrich, Cindy Gumble, Maureen Joy, Lucy Holcombe, Elaine Frederick;  
Chief Election Officials Lois Jones, Lisa Galbreth

7. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the Transfer Reports as attached. (See Attachment #1)

10. Approval of the Claims Auditor's Reports and Warrants #77, 78, and 79.

**The following personnel items 1 through 10 were approved as presented on the motion of Russell Tilley, seconded by Mary Dugan, and carried 5-0: (Item #12 was voted on after Executive Session.)**

1. Approval of the resignation of Luke Hultman as a cleaner effective April 30, 2021.
2. Approval of the resignation of Stephanie Holbert as a regular-run bus driver effective May 7, 2021.
3. Approval of the resignation for the purpose of retirement of James Tyler as a full-time bus driver, effective June 30, 2021.
4. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the MOA between the Morris Central School District and James Tyler allowing Mr. Tyler to be paid for his unused sick days even though he did not put in his resignation notice four months ahead of his resignation date.
5. Approval of the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Edwin Stevens as a regular-run bus driver, effective June 30, 2021.
6. Approval of the two-week paternity leave of Michael Gregg scheduled to start on or about June 2, 2021.
7. Approval of tenure of Carly Norton, effective September 1, 2021, is hereby made:

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| a) Name of Appointee: | Carly Norton         |
| b) Tenure Area:       | Elementary Education |



- c) Date of Commencement  
of Service of Tenure: August 31, 2017  
d) Certification Status: Childhood Education (Grades 1-6), Professional

8. Approval of Trista Hilts as a probationary teacher aide, starting on May 17, 2021. Ms. Hilts salary will be \$16,302, prorated May 17 through June 25, 2021.

9. Approval of long-term substitute Jessica Cappelli to cover Brittney Gregg's maternity leave. Ms. Cappelli is starting on May 24 through June 25, 2021. Her stipend is \$197.50 per diem with no benefits.

10. Approval of the resignation of Emily Thomsen as a probationary speech-language pathologist effective July 1, 2021.

**The following personnel item number 11 was approved as presented on the motion of Emily Boss, seconded by Michael Walling, and carried 5-0:**

11. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District hereby appoints Dr. Shannon L. Babbie as Superintendent of Schools, for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024, subject to agreement of terms and conditions of employment by the parties.

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Board hereby authorizes the President of the Board to execute an employment agreement, as negotiated by the Board, setting forth the terms and conditions of Dr. Babbie's employment and authorizes payment thereunder.

**The following Administrative items 1 and 2 were approved as presented on the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0:**

1. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the first reading of the new policy as follows:

#5633 – Gender Neutral Single-Occupancy Bathroom

2. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the first reading of the revisions of the following policies:

#3420 – Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment in the District

#6120 – Equal Employment Opportunity

#6121 – Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

#7420 – Sports and the Athletic Program

#7553 – Hazing of Students

#7554 – Dignity for All Students

#8130 – Equal Education Opportunities

#8220 – Career and Technical (Occupational) Education

**Public Comment:** Matthew Sheldon congratulated Dr. Babbie and wished Dr. Huber a happy birthday.

The Board went into executive session at 7:59 p.m. to discuss the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation and CSE on the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:55 p.m. on the motion of Emily Boss, seconded by Mike Walling, and carried 5-0.

On the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 5-0: the IEP's of the specified CSE students' plans #2532, 3128, 2759, 2690, 2680, 2823, 2999, 3133, 2566, 2578, 2678, 2481, 2443, 2442,

2992, 2993, 2905, 2886, 2616, and 2656 were approved as presented. Students' Individual Education Plans (IEP) was viewed online, in executive session, on an as needed basis.

**BUSINESS:**

**The following business items 8, 9, and 11 were approved as presented on the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0:**

8. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the Certified 2021-2022 Budget Vote held on May 18, 2021 as follows:

Yes: 67      No: 10      Total: 77

9. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the Certified Board Member Vote held on May 18, 2021 as follows:

Wendy Moore: 68      Write-In: 3      Blank: 3      Invalid: 1      Total: 76

11. **Be It Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Morris Central School District approves the MOA between the Morris Teachers Association (MTA) and the Morris Central School District allowing Stacia Norman to receive her retirement benefits pursuant to Article 16 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, as attached. (See Attachment #2)

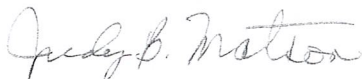
**PERSONNEL:**

**The following personnel item number 12 was approved as presented on the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Emily Boss, and carried 5-0:**

12. Approval of the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Stacia Norman, as an elementary teacher effective June 30, 2021.

The Board adjourned at 8:57 p.m. without further discussion on the motion of Michael Walling, seconded by Russell Tilley, and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Judy B. Matson  
District Clerk

NON-BOCES Budget Code Transfers

5/18/2021

FROM	AMOUNT	TO	AMOUNT
Capital	9950.900	1621.400	\$3,500.00 Maintenance Contractual
		2110.450	\$15,000.00 Teaching Materials & Supplies
		2110.150	\$2,000.00 Tutor Salary
		2110.200	\$15,000.00 Equipment over budgeted amount
Postage	1670.410	1670.420	\$500.00 Central Printing & Mailing
S A Software	2630.460	2160.460	\$132.24 School Library AV Loan Program
S A Software	2630.460	2630.220	\$1,367.00 State aided Hardware
Mat & Supp	2815.400	2815.200	\$5.00 Health Svs Equipment
Athl Contract	2855.400	2855.200	\$3,000.00 Athletic Equipment
Trans M&S	5510.450	5510.400	\$42,000.00 Transport Contractual
		5530.450	\$5,000.00 Bus Garage Material & Supplies
			<u>\$87,504.24</u>
			<u>\$87,504.24</u>

Prepared By: Shannon Harrington  
Shannon Harrington, Treasurer

5/18/21 Judy B. Matson  
Date District Clerk  
bol  
Approval

BOCES BUDGET CODE TRANSFERS

5/18/2021

FROM	AMOUNT	TO	AMOUNT
2250.490	\$9,755.00	1310.490	\$ 430.00
		1430.490	\$ 4,840.00
		1620.490	\$ 230.00
		1680.490	\$ 645.00
		2060.490	\$ 3,485.00
		2610.490	\$ 125.00
	<u>\$9,755.00</u>		<u>\$ 9,755.00</u>

5/18/21  
Date - BOE Approval

Judy B. Matson  
District Clerk

Prepared By: Shannon Harrington  
Shannon Harrington, Treasurer



**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
BY AND BETWEEN  
THE  
MORRIS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
AND THE  
MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL RETIREMENT

**Stacia Norman Retirement**

Based on the specific facts surrounding Ms. Norman's notice of retirement, the parties hereby agree to the following:

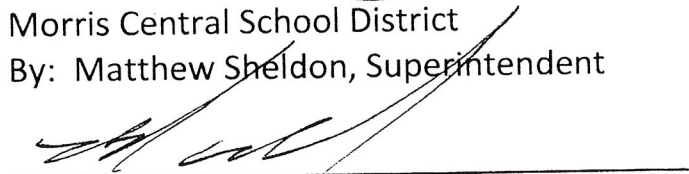
- Ms. Norman shall have an effective date of resignation for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2021.
- Ms. Norman shall be eligible for the retirement benefits pursuant to Article 16 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- This Agreement is unique to the circumstances leading to its creation which are not likely to be repeated. This Agreement does not create a past practice or a law of the shop. Neither party will seek to introduce this Agreement in any subsequent proceeding before any court, board, or tribunal of any kind or nature, including a binding arbitration brought under the grievance article in the contract as evidence of past-practice or law of the shop. This Agreement may be introduced as evidence in a proceeding seeking to enforce its terms.

Dated: May 20, 2021



Morris Central School District  
By: Matthew Sheldon, Superintendent

Dated: May 20, 2021



Morris Teachers Association  
By: Michael Iannelli, President